

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended). A communication arrangement for connecting together a plurality of nodes, said arrangement comprising:

at least one opto-electronic S/E transducer each connected to one of said plurality of nodes, each transducer ~~including a means for generating an~~ first electrical output signal in response to an optical input signal from one of said nodes[;], said each transducer and

~~a second means for determining a relative value of said~~ first electrical output signal[;], ~~wherein said second means outputs and outputting~~ a second electrical signal as an error signal when said ~~relative~~ value of said first electrical signal is less than a predetermined value during a period of time when there is an absence of an input optical signal from said one node.

7. (Currently Amended). A method for determining errors in data transmission among a plurality of nodes connected to one another, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one optical module for converting an input optical signal from one of said nodes to an output electrical signal;
determining a ~~relative~~ value of said output electrical signal;
~~comprising~~ composing said ~~relative~~ value to a base value and
outputting an error signal when said ~~relative~~ value is less than said base value during a time when there is an absence of input optical signals.

B 8. (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 7,
wherein said error signal is stored in a memory.

9. (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 7, including
the step of reading out a status of said memory element.

10. (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 7, wherein
said memory element is addressable.
